

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 of one of the following inventions:

Group I, claims 1-3, 11 and 15, drawn to a screening assay to identify inhibitors of influenza virus NP:host cell binding interactions, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1;

Group II, claims 1, 9-11 and 15, drawn to a screening assay to identify inhibitors of influenza virus NS1:host cell binding interactions, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1;

Group III, claims 18-20, drawn to a method for treating influenza virus infection by administering a compound that inhibits influenza virus NP:host cell binding interactions, classified in class 514, subclass 1;

Group IV, claims 18, 26 and 27, drawn to a method for treating influenza virus infection by administering a compound that inhibits influenza virus NS1:host cell binding interactions, classified in class 514, subclass 1;

Group V, claims 28-30, 32-36, 38 and 39, drawn to nucleic acids and expression vectors encoding NPI host cell factors, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1; and

Group VI, claims drawn to nucleic acids and expression vectors encoding NS1 host cell factors, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.

The Examiner contends that the inventions are distinct from each other.

In response, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group VI drawn to nucleic acids and expression vectors encoding NS1:host cell factors.

Applicants believe that claims 40-42, 44 and 45 read on the elected invention.

Entry of the remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure